

From: Laura Rigas
To: [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, October 25, 2017
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 7:35:51 AM

No, a list that large sometimes takes time to get to folks. All sent at the same time, as far as I know.

Laura Keehner Rigas
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On Oct 25, 2017, at 7:33 AM, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Wait I didnt get until 630!! Is there an early list?

On Oct 25, 2017, at 7:29 AM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

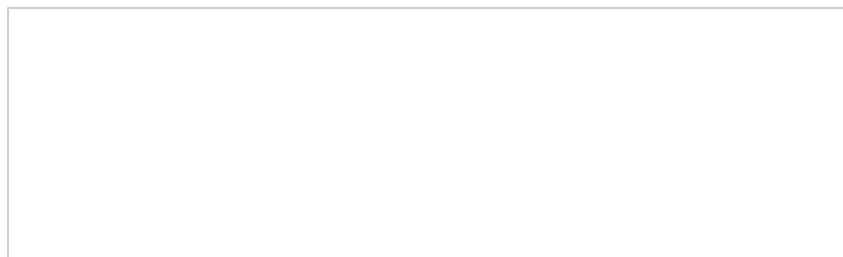
6am ;)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Bulletin Intelligence
<Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: October 25, 2017 at 6:01:41 AM EDT
To: <Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News
Briefing for Wednesday, October 25, 2017

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DOI In The News


Democrats Call For Investigation Of \$300 Million Contract For Firm With Ties To Zinke.

There was significant coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's ties to an small company from his hometown that was awarded a major contract to help restore power to Puerto Rico's power grid. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/24, story 7, 2:10, Muir) reported a "Montana company [was] given the contract to get the power back on" in Puerto Rico "with just two workers when it landed that contract." ABC (Thomas) added, "Whitefish Energy, a private Montana company with just two full-time employees, awarded a \$300 million contract by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority. The company showcasing its work on Twitter," but "some Democrats are already calling for an investigation into that contract" to Whitefish Energy – a firm from the "hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, A1, Mufson, Gillum, Davis, Hernández) first reported the story which said that the company had "only two full-time employees on the day Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico." Whitefish Energy "signed the contract...with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to fix the island's electrical infrastructure." The company "has 280 workers on the island...a majority of whom are subcontractors." Former DOE official Susan Tierney said, "The fact that there are so many utilities with experience in this and a huge track record of helping each other out, it is at least odd why [the utility] would go to Whitefish. ... I'm scratching my head wondering how it all adds up."

The [AP](#) (10/24, Daly) reports the Interior Department "denied that Zinke, a former Montana

congressman, played any role in the contract award. Zinke's son had a summer job at a Whitefish construction side." The department said in a statement, "Neither the secretary nor anyone in his office have taken any meetings or action on behalf of this company." Furthermore, the statement said Zinke knows Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanskis "because they both live in a small town where everyone knows everyone." Techmanskis visited Puerto Rico on vacation in late summer "and established contact with PREPA and discussed potential future work, company spokesman Chris Chiames said Tuesday. When Maria hit Sept. 20, Whitefish was one of the companies that power authority officials were able to reach by satellite phone." Chiames said in a telephone interview, "We got here quicker than anybody else and we built a plan that PREPA had confidence in."

PREPA's executive director Ricardo Ramos told reporters that Whitefish was the first company "available to arrive, and they were the ones that first accepted terms and conditions for PREPA," according to the [AP](#) (10/24, Daly). Ramos added, "The doubts that have been raised about Whitefish, from my point of view, are completely unfounded." [NPR](#) (10/24, Ouellet) reports Ramos explained Whitefish's selection was a matter of timing and convenience. He told NPR, "We knew there was going to be a direct hit, so we wanted as much resources as possible." He said Whitefish's name "popped up on several fronts." According to Ramos, PREPA received bids from several companies in the period between Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. PREPA shortlisted two companies, including Whitefish. He also pointed out Whitefish did not ask for a payment guarantee, and it was awarded the PREPA contract. [NBC Nightly News](#)  (10/24, story 6, 1:50, Gutierrez) showed Ken Luce, a Whitefish Energy spokesperson, defending the company by saying, "Others were just not willing to take the risk and get on a plane to go ask for business."

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Acosta, Healy) reports "the House Committee on Natural Resources said on Tuesday that it was looking into the contract." Parish Braden, the panel's communications director, "said that members of the panel would travel to Puerto Rico this week to seek more answers about the details of the contract and how it was reached." Moreover, "Sen. Maria Cantwell, Democrat of Washington, asked the Government Accountability

Office to investigate the circumstances surrounding Whitefish's contract."

The [AP](#) (10/24, Daly) reports Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said Tuesday that "Congress needs to understand why the Whitefish contract was awarded and whether other, more cost-effective options were available." Grijalva said lawmakers also need to understand why the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and public sector utilities "failed in Puerto Rico to conduct the disaster-response planning they carried out ahead of other disasters this year" in Texas, Florida and other states.

In a statement to [ABC News](#) (10/24, Dooley, Ebbs, Hoyos), Democratic Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois added, "There is something very fishy about the Whitefish deal. I have been here 25 years and this doesn't pass the smell test." In contrast to such skepticism, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) said Whitefish "showed up at the right place at the right time and that's how they got the contract." Rubio added, "We want to see restoration pick up. Every day that they're without power is a day that economy isn't functioning and it's another day people are suffering."

Additional coverage is available at [The Hill](#) (10/24, Savransky), [NPR](#) (10/24), [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Talking Points Memo](#) (10/24), [Daily Beast](#) (10/24), [Daily Beast](#) (10/24), [Huffington Post](#) (10/24), [MSNBC](#) (10/24, Benen), [The Week](#) (10/24, Weber), [Salon](#) (10/24, Rozsa), [Slate](#) (10/24, Olmstead), [Vanity Fair](#) (10/24, Levin), [Esquire Magazine](#) (10/24, Pierce), [Vice](#) (10/24, Lubben), [Mic](#) (10/24, Smith), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/24, Raven), [New York Post](#) (10/24, Moore), [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/24, York), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24, Earle), [Public Radio International](#) (10/24, Shankar), and [Splinter News](#) (10/24, Sheehan).

Sources that picked up AP reporting include the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/24, Daly), [ABC News](#) (10/24, Dooley, Ebbs, Hoyos), [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/24), [Chicago \(IL\) Daily Herald](#) (10/24), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Fox Business](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/24), [MSN](#) (10/24), [New York Daily News](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Daly), and [Yahoo! Finance](#) (10/24).

WPost: Contract "Deserving Of More Scrutiny."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/24) editorializes that in

contrast to the situation in Texas and Florida, “more than a month after Maria made landfall on” Puerto Rico “roughly 8 out of 10 residents are still without power.” While “the sorry, preexisting state of Puerto Rico’s power system...clearly accounts for some of the delay...that doesn’t excuse the bad planning and questionable decisions that have marked the response to a calamity that was so clearly anticipated.” To the Post, “giving a no-bid \$300 million contract to a company that had just two full-time employees on the day Maria struck is, at best, curious and deserving of more scrutiny.”

Governor Slams Army Corps Of Engineers. ☐

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/24, story 6, 1:50, Gutierrez) reported that amid the continuing power outages, Puerto Rico’s governor “slammed the Army Corps of Engineers’ response so far.” Gov. Ricardo Rosselló was shown saying, “There’s no sense of urgency.” NBC added, “The Army Corps insists it’s working hard to meet the governor’s goal to restoring power to 95 percent of the island by mid-December.”

Interior Proposes Raising Fees At Popular National Parks.

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Henry) reports the Interior Department is considering higher peak-season fees at 17 of its most popular national parks “during their busiest five-month periods.” The agency said the increased fees would “help ensure that they are protected and preserved in perpetuity and that visitors enjoy a world-class experience that mirrors the amazing destinations they are visiting.” In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration.” Zinke added, “We need to have the vision to look at the future of our parks and take action in order to ensure that our grandkids’ grandkids will have the same if not better experience than we have today. Shoring up our parks’ aging infrastructure will do that.” President Trump proposed trimming the National Park Service’s budget by 12.9 percent this year, “despite concerns from officials with the department and in Congress about the state of the Park Service’s infrastructure.”

The [AP](#) (10/24, Fonseca) reports visitors to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, and other popular parks “would be charged \$70 per vehicle, up from the fee of \$30 for a weekly pass. At others, the hike is nearly triple, from \$25 to \$70.” The National Park Service estimates it will raise \$70 million a year

with the proposal “at a time when national parks repeatedly have been breaking visitation records and putting a strain on park resources.” According to the AP, the proposal would not affect selected free weekends and holidays at parks throughout the year.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/24, Martin) reports NPS will accept public comment on the proposal until Nov. 23 at its public comment website. The proposal could go into effect as early as next spring. It would also increase fees for commercial vehicles entering the parks. [Money](#) (10/24, Calfas) reports NPS has not “proposed any price increases for its America the Beautiful passes, which are \$80 and grant access to more than 2,000 federal sites, including those potentially getting a comparable price tag for just one visit.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/24) reports Democrats were “quick to slam the park free proposal.” Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, said in a statement, “We should be encouraging more people to get outdoors and enjoy our great natural wonders instead of discouraging them by raising park entrance fees.” Meanwhile, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) said in a statement, “While Secretary Zinke flies around on private jets using our taxpayer dollars, he is hiking up the fees all American families pay to enjoy our National Parks.”

Additional coverage is available at [Reuters](#) (10/24, Coffman), [Axios](#) (10/24, Britzky), [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (10/24, Siciliano), [CNN](#) (10/25, Park), [USA Today](#) (10/25, Cummings), [Oregonian](#) (10/24, Hale), [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/24), [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/24, Friesen), [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/24, Blevins), [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/24, Franz), [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (10/24, Donald), [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/24, O'Donoghue), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/24, Martinson), [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/24, Simon), [KTLA-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/24, Pamer), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/24, Francis).

Sources that picked up AP reporting include the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/24, By Felicia Fonseca |, Ap), [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/24), [Arizona Republic](#) (10/24), [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (10/24, Fonseca), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Fox Business](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/24), [New York Daily News](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/24), [Springfield \(OH\) News](#)

[Sun](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Fonseca), and [Waterloo-Cedar Falls \(IA\) Courier](#) (10/24).

Trump To Auction Off A Vast Swath Of The Gulf Of Mexico To Oil Companies.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/24, Fears) reports the Trump Administration “made history Tuesday in proposing that nearly 77 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico be made available for companies wanting to purchase federal oil and gas leases – the largest offering ever in the United States.” The Post adds that “in announcing the sale, the Interior Department compared the targeted waters to ‘about the size of New Mexico’ and said the first lease sales off Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are scheduled for March next year.” The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) “offered assurances that the environment would be protected as additional leases are sold in the gulf.” Vincent DeVito, Interior’s counselor for energy policy, touted the benefits of the sale, saying, “People need jobs, the Gulf Coast states need revenue, and Americans do not want to be dependent on foreign oil.” According to the Post, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “first broached such a sale shortly after he took office in March, proposing to offer 73 million acres for leases.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Wolfgang) reports Zinke “announced the massive lease sale, slated for March 2018, on Tuesday morning, and said the move is a key component of the administration’s effort to tap US energy reserves and reap the economic benefits that come along with them.” Said Zinke, “In today’s low-price energy environment, providing the offshore industry access to the maximum amount of opportunities possible is part of our strategy to spur local and regional economic dynamism and job creation and a pillar of President Trump’s plan to make the United States energy dominant.”

The [AP](#) (10/24, Daly) reports the sale “includes all available unleased areas on the Gulf’s Outer Continental Shelf, a reflection of the Trump administration’s strategy to maximize oil and gas drilling on federal lands and waters.” Nevertheless, only a few of the available tracts are expected to receive bids. “A similar lease sale in August drew bids on just 90 offshore tracts totaling about a half-million acres – less than 1 percent of the 76 million acres available,” the AP said. The proposed sale sparked

criticism from Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, who “said Zinke and congressional Republicans were taking credit for an Obama-era policy to offer oil and gas leases from all available tracts in the Gulf, rather than separating the western and eastern Gulf areas from the more productive” central Gulf region.

According to the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/24), “Many Gulf coast lawmakers and political leaders praised the new lease sale.” [Reuters](#) (10/24) reports BOEM spokesman John Filostrat said, “We’re hoping to get a healthy number of bids, more so than we did in August.”

Also covering this story are the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (10/24, Siegel), [Rigzone](#) (10/24, Veazey) and [Offshore Magazine](#) (10/24). Sources that picked up AP reporting include [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/24), [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (10/24), [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/24), [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (10/24), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Fox Business](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/23), [New York Daily News](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Daly).

Alaska Senators Tell Trump Not To Change Name Of Mountain.

In continuing coverage, [The Hill](#) (10/24, Anapol) reports on Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) recalling during a speech at the Alaska Federation of Natives’ annual conference that during a meeting in March with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, President Trump offered to reverse the Obama-era order that changed the name of Mt. McKinley to Denali. According to the Alaska Dispatch News, Sullivan said of Trump, “He looked at me and said, ‘I heard that the big mountain in Alaska also had – also its name was changed by executive action. Do you want us to reverse that?’” Sullivan said he and fellow Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) “jumped over the desk” and told the president, “No! No. Don’t want to reverse that.”

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports Alaska spent decades trying to get North America’s tallest mountain recognized as Denali, an Athabascan word meaning “the high one,” which Alaskans widely used. As a presidential candidate, Trump tweeted his displeasure with then-Interior Secretary Sally Jewell issuing an order in 2015 ordering the name change.

Sources that picked up AP reporting include [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/17), [MSN](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [Stamford \(CT\) Advocate](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), and [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Bohrer).

Government Accountability Office Says Climate Change Already Costing U.S. Billions.

The [Associated Press](#) (10/24, Biesecker) reports a Government Accountability Report released Monday said climate change is costing US taxpayers billions of dollars each year, “with those costs expected to rise as devastating storms, floods, wildfires and droughts become more frequent in the coming decades.” The report found “the federal government has spent more than \$350 billion over the last decade on disaster assistance programs and losses from flood and crop insurance,” a figure that does not include the “massive toll from this year’s wildfires and three major hurricanes, expected to be among the most costly in the nation’s history.” The authors “reviewed 30 government and academic studies examining the national and regional impacts of climate change” and also “interviewed 28 experts familiar with the strengths and limitations of the studies, which rely on future projections of climate impacts to estimate likely costs.” The AP mentions that President Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry “question the scientific consensus that carbon released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is the primary driver of global warming.”

Sources that picked up AP reporting include [CBS News](#), (10/24) [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/24), [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (10/24), [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (10/23, Biesecker), [Daily Mail](#) (10/23), [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/24, Biesecker), [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (10/24), and [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/24).

Congressional Democrats Want Probe Of Delta Tunnels Project.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports five Congressional Democrats from California and one Arizona Democrat on Tuesday requested a new federal probe of Gov. Jerry Brown’s \$16 billion proposal to build two giant water tunnels. The request followed a federal audit that “found that the U.S. Interior Department improperly used taxpayer money to help fund planning for the

project." The Democrats are asking the US General Accounting Office "to determine whether that funding was legal."

Sources that picked up AP reporting include [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (10/24), [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), and [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24).

Can Solar Save A Huge Coal Plant? Zinke's Thinking About It.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/24, Patterson, Storrow) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke met with South African billionaire Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and two members of his company, NantWorks, to discuss the possibility of using high-powered solar technology at the Navajo Generation Station, one of America's largest coal plants, "as the Trump administration searches for a way to keep the facility from closing." The northeast Arizona facility is "scheduled to retire in 2019 after four utilities with a stake in the facility voted to close it earlier this year." The Interior Department is a minor owner in the plant, which the Trump Administration opposes shuttering. According to the article, Zinke's meeting "appeared to catch some of the administration's allies off guard." For example, the "economies of the Navajo and Hopi tribes are heavily reliant on the coal industry, and tribal leaders have loudly opposed plans to close NGS." In an email, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift wrote that the department is interested "in an economic pathway where NGS operates post-2019."

Ryan Zinke's Ties To 'Scam PAC' Being Scrutinized By GOP.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/24, Siegel, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has helped raise money for political operatives in Washington that conservatives are now accusing of misleading donors, Politico reported Tuesday." The report found Zinke "has donated to groups linked to Scott Mackenzie," who runs a Virgin Islands GOP political action committee that hosted Zinke at a fundraiser in March. The Politico investigation found many Republicans have distanced themselves from Mackenzie "because critics say he operates 'scam PACs' that generate small donations from conservative voters, and spend the money on overhead and consultants." For example, Republican Texas Rep. Will Hurd said many of Mackenzie's firms "are preying on seniors." According to the Examiner,

there is no evidence linking Zinke's relationship with Mackenzie to anything illegal, "but the relationship with the consultants and PACs is raising eyebrows, Politico reports."

Event To Feature Deputy Interior Secretary.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Business Times](#) (10/24) reports the Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club is hosting a presentation featuring Kate MacGregor, deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management at the Department of the Interior, Nov. 15. According to the article, McGreggor's presentation is titled, "The Department of the Interior's Role in Energy Dominance."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Iron Eyes To Ask For Necessity Defense In DAPL Case

. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/24, Dura) reports that a Standing Rock Sioux tribe member Chase Iron Eyes was charged with a felony for inciting a riot and a misdemeanor for criminal trespass, to which, he will be raising the necessity defense on November 3. Chase Iron Eyes is an attorney himself and was a candidate for the US House in 2016. Iron Eyes said "given the Dakota Access Pipeline's imminent threat to my tribe's and my family's only water supply, I ultimately had no choice but to resist on the front lines." The Bismarck Tribune adds that "Iron Eyes faces up to five years in prison, if convicted. He is scheduled for a felony jury trial on Feb. 8."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (10/24, Nicholson, Karnowski) reports that "an American Indian activist and former U.S. congressional candidate in North Dakota accused of inciting a riot during protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline says he'll seek to present a "necessity defense" — justifying a crime by arguing it prevented a greater harm."

Lawsuit Filed To Block County Board Of Supervisors' Approval Of Camp 4 Agreement.

The [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (10/24, Hodgson) reports a Santa Ynez Valley ranch "filed a complaint against the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors as a whole and its members individually seeking to prevent their approval of a memorandum of agreement with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash

Indians." The lawsuit involves "the 1,427-acre Camp 4 property east of Highway 154 and west of Highway 246 that was purchased by the Chumash tribe in 2010 with the intent of building tribal housing, a community center and other improvements." The Bureau of Indian Affairs, at the tribe's request, "issued a decision to take the land into trust, which would allow the tribe to develop the property outside the jurisdiction of county and state laws, result in a loss of tax revenues to the county and fail to compensate the county for services provided." The lawsuit alleges the tribe's proposed development "of 415 residences and a 12,000-square-foot community center fails to meet all provisions of the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, which the supervisors have admitted."

Bill To Build Grand Canyon Tram Goes Before Navajo Lawmakers.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports the Navajo Nation Council will review legislation to build an aerial tram into the Grand Canyon during Tuesday's special session. The legislation "has struggled to gain widespread support." Developers claim it will "revitalize the region's economy," but opponents argue "it would desecrate the area." The Navajo Nation would need to invest \$65 million to start the project.

Navajo Nation 'Rejects' DOJ Move Not To Prosecute Ex-Officer.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports from Tse Bonito, NM that "the Navajo Nation says it's angered by a U.S. Justice Department decision not to prosecute a former Winslow, Arizona, officer who fatally shot a 27-year-old Navajo woman." Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch said on Tuesday "the tribe is planning to sue over the matter early next year. The tribe had asked the Justice Department to look into the March 2016 shooting of Loreal Tsingine." Justice Department spokesman Devin O'Malley said on Tuesday that "the evidence thoroughly was reviewed but officials couldn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Austin Shipley willfully used excessive force when he shot Tsingine."

Bureau Of Land Management

Poll: Utah Voters Divided On Future Of Two National Monuments.

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Henry) reports a poll released Tuesday by the Salt Lake Tribune and the University of Utah found 51 percent of respondents supported shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument. However, 53 percent of voters “also said the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument should be preserved and not split into smaller monuments, something supported by 27 percent of those polled.” Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante are two of nearly 30 large national monuments that the Interior Department is considering changes for. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has said he will recommend President Trump shrink Bears Ears, a 1.3-million acre expanse established by the Obama administration late last year containing cultural sites from Native American tribes.” Zinke is also expected to “recommend Trump shrink Grand Staircase-Escalante, a 1.8-million acre monument established by President Clinton in 1996.”

2 In Nevada Standoff Case Take Plea Deals, Avoid 3rd Trial.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports two defendants pleaded guilty to lesser charges to “avoid a third trial and the possibility of more time in federal custody for bearing assault-style weapons during a 2014 confrontation with federal agents near a ranch owned by Nevada cattleman and states’ rights figure Cliven Bundy.” According to the AP, their plea deals “narrow the focus of an upcoming trial for Bundy, two adult sons and a close associate,” who are accused of “leading a conspiracy to enlist a self-styled militia to prevent federal Bureau of Land Management agents from enforcing court orders to remove Bundy cattle from desert rangeland in what is now Gold Butte National Monument.”

Sources that picked up AP reporting includes [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/19), [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/24) and [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24).

Federal Land Manager To Idaho National Guard: Stop Building.

The [AP](#) (10/24, Boone) reports the Bureau of Land Management sent a formal cease and desist letter ordering the Idaho National Guard to cease construction of a “tank crossing on a road in a national conservation area in the state until an environmental analysis is finished and the BLM decides whether to grant a permit.” Both sides called

the issue a “rare misunderstanding in a long-standing positive relationship in the area that contains key habitat for eagles, falcons and hawks.” BLM’s Snake River Birds of Prey Manager Amanda Hoffman said in an email, “The Guard is an active and positive partner with the BLM in their environmental stewardship of the Orchard Combat Training Center.”

BLM Pulls Plan To Auction Oil And Gas Lease Near Shenandoah.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/24, Romeo) reports a spokesman with the Bureau of Land Management said the agency has pulled a 40-acre tract on the southern border of the Shenandoah subdivision from an oil and gas lease sale set for March in response to “public backlash earlier this month when Shenandoah residents said the agency did not properly notify them of the sale or a public comment period.” The potential development of the land “also drew concern over noise, traffic and general health risks associated with nearby oil and gas development.”

The [AP](#) (10/24) also reports on this story.

Enviros Warn Of No More Parks; Critics Say ‘Ridiculous.’

In a 2,500-word piece, [E&E Publishing](#) (10/24, Yachnin) reports critics of House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop’s legislation to overhaul the Antiquities Act claim it will not only “mandate strict guidelines for the creation of national monuments but would lessen the chances for new national parks in the decades ahead.” Bishop “has dismissed such correlations as unfounded.” Before a Natural Resources panel passed the bill along party lines earlier this month, Bishop stated, “The idea that Grand Canyon or Zion National Park would never have been created without this is misinformation.” However, conservation advocates “have seized on that data to argue that Bishop’s new legislation would have prevented the creation of sites like the former Grand Canyon and Arches national monuments, and potentially derailed the process through which those lands became national parks.”

Trump’s ‘Energy Independence’ Order: Where Do Things Stand?

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/24) reports that this month, the Trump administration “hit two milestones in their wide-ranging examination of Obama-era rules” that could be considered burdensome to U.S. energy

producers. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt “formally proposed a repeal of the Clean Power Plan” just days after the Bureau of Land Management “unveiled its plan to postpone key parts of a rule the Obama administration introduced to limit venting, flaring and leakage of natural gas from energy operations on public and tribal lands.” President Trump is also credited with disbanding “an interagency working group that focused on the social cost of carbon and related tools that put a dollar amount on the impacts of carbon, nitrous oxide and methane.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Developers Plan Wind Farms Off Jersey as Christie Era Ends.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Ryan) reports, “after years of being sidelined by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, wind farm developers are dusting off plans for massive offshore turbines that may someday generate more electricity than a nuclear reactor.” As governor, Christie “effectively blocked wind farms off his state’s coast by never fully implementing a program that would subsidize the projects.” Bloomberg writes that Christie’s departure “presents a potentially rich market for offshore wind,” with low power prices and a geographical position “midway between offshore wind development sites in New England and the Southeast, making the state a potential hub for ferrying supplies to build projects in other states.” The article quotes US Wind Director of Project Development Paul Rich, “New Jersey has all the classic elements for offshore wind to work. The time is right, and the market is ripe.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

California Makes Critical Repairs In Century-Old Levee System.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/24, Hearden) reports California water agencies spent \$80 million this summer to repair “30 of the most critically impaired levees after last winter’s rains, but there were 10 others that they couldn’t get to, officials said.” According to the Capital Press, a “sense of urgency prevailed this summer after high river levels during a historically wet winter exposed weak spots in roughly 1,600 miles of levees in the Central

Valley." Among the most troubled areas "is the Feather River below the Oroville Dam, whose spillways nearly failed in February."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Texas Researchers Hope Grants Will Stop Spread Of Disease Threatening State's Bats.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/24, Stuckey) reports that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on Tuesday announced the award of \$1.3 million in grant funding for six initiatives to halt the spread of white nose syndrome, which "has killed millions of North American bats." Around \$600,000 will fund projects in Texas, where researchers just recently discovered the first incidence of the disease. Southern Company is listed among the partners that funded the grants. The [AP](#) (10/24) also covers the announcement of the grant funding from the "Bats for the Future Fund," which "includes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Shell Oil and Southern Co."

Fish And Wildlife Police Seize Pot On Hanford Reach National Monument.

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/24, Cary) reports officials seized a marijuana crop on the Hanford Reach National Monument. A US Fish and Wildlife Service scientist "surprised a person carrying a weapon earlier this month in a remote area north of the Columbia River near Saddle Mountain Lake, an area that is closed to the public." The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife "responded to what initially was suspected of being an illegal hunt," but instead found an active marijuana growing operation where 200 to 300 plants "had been harvested, dried and prepared for transportation, according to officers."

Fishermen, Researchers Try To Outsmart Bait-Robbing Seabirds To Save Them.

[NW News Network](#) (10/23, Banse) reports researchers from Oregon and Washington published a report recommending the best tactics to avoid bycatch, particularly endangered species such as the short-tailed albatross. The report "recommends either fishing at night or deploying bird-scaring streamers on a line towed from a mast." The US Fish and Wildlife Service, citing the research, "recently

directed regulators at NOAA Fisheries to require the West Coast longline fleet use one of the two options.” According to a FWS report published earlier this year, “there has been one confirmed case of a short-tailed albatross being killed in longline gear since 2002 off the Oregon, Washington and California coasts.”

National Park Service

Losing Lake Powell’s Quagga Mussel Invasion Battle, But Trying To Win The War.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (10/22, Gardner) reports on the futile attempts by researchers over a decade to keep adult quagga mussels from taking over Lake Powell. Experts believe it is “impossible to entirely eradicate the” invasive species from taking over Lake Powell. According to the article, the “mussels latch on to the walls of Glen Canyon Dam and the hundreds of boats skimming the lake’s waters.” More than \$1 million each year has been spent on containment efforts since researchers first discovered the invading mussels. Organizations in the surrounding states are “working together on containment efforts that include inspecting boats, educating boaters [about] the infestation, bolstering staff, levying costly fines to uncooperative boaters and investing in decontamination equipment.”

Celebrity Ambassadors Put Lesser-Known U.S. National Parks In The Limelight.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Sachs) reports that for its 101th birthday, the National Parks Service and National Park Foundation “launched Parks 101, an ongoing online series that will introduce the masses to lesser-known destinations within the 417-site system.” The goal of the series is to encourage visitors to start attending its minor locations. “The places that are iconic are well worth visiting,” said Will Shafroth, president and chief executive of the foundation, “but we wanted to spark interest in the places that hardly anyone knows about.” He explained the series includes videos and social media posts by celebrity ambassadors and focuses on destinations that offer a diversity of experiences.

Burt’s Bees Cofounder On Why She Gave Away 87,000 Acres In Maine.

[Forbes](#) (10/24, Wang) reports that Roxanne Quimby, the co-founder of lip balms and lotions manufacturer

Burt's Bee, used her fortune to purchase "thousands of acres of land across the country, aiming to preserve the land rather than develop it." Last year, Quimby "donated roughly \$75 million worth of her holdings to the National Park Service – over 87,000 acres overall – and \$6 million to other causes." As part of her entrepreneurship, Quimby "learned about a problem in national parks called inholding – parcels of privately-held land sitting inside of government-owned parks." As a result, she "decided to allocate \$10 million towards a project that will buy up then donate inholdings in various parks in the U.S." When NPS' 100th anniversary occurred in 2016, she "turned over \$10 million worth of inholdings (150 acres in all) she acquired over the years to the federal government, and donated around 87,500 acres of land in Maine to create a national monument called Katahdin Woods and Waters."

Park Service Cancels Funding For Project 'Honoring Legacy' of Black Panther Party.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/24, Harrington) reports the National Park Service said it will no longer provide funding for a project "honoring the legacy" of the Black Panther Party after the agency was criticized for spending taxpayer money on the controversial group. NPS said in the grant awarded for the project, "Committed to truthfully honoring the legacy of [Black Panther Party] BPP activists and the San Francisco Bay Area communities they served, the project seeks to document the lives of activists and elders and the landscapes that shaped the movement."

Help Support National Parks.

The [Reading \(PA\) Eagle](#) (10/25, Banowetz) reports Brooks Sports continues to support the US National Park System "with the introduction of its National Parks Collection, a series of its Cascadia 12 trail running shoes, socks and T-shirts that raise money for the National Park Service." Interested runners can select from "special editions of the shoe that are designed to honor Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mount Rainier and Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and a technical T-shirt designed for each of those parks is also available." Five percent of the wholesale cost of each item will be donated to the NPS.

Wild Burros Raft Grand Canyon Rapids.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (10/24, Mimiaga)

reports on the story of the National Park Service transporting wild burros on rafts or by helicopter out of Grand Canyon in 1980-81. Back then, the NPS "had long wanted to get rid of the growing burro population in the Grand Canyon because they competed with native wildlife for grazing lands." The "unconventional round-up" of the beasts of burden "involved custom-built rafts with corrals and ramps, professional boaters."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Guam Delegate Suggests Options To Save Chamorro Land Trust.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports Guam Del. Madeleine Bordallo "has proposed five options to save the Chamorro Land Trust program, which has been challenged in court by the federal government." According to the Pacific Daily News, the US Department of Justice lawsuit claims the local government violated the federal Fair Housing Act "for discriminating against non-Chamorros." The program "aims to hold public land for indigenous Chamorros, who can lease 1-acre tracts for \$1 a year for 99 years. The Land Trust Commission also leases land for commercial use to non-Chamorros." The AP explains the Federal government "sued after a Caucasian Tamuning resident earlier this year filed a complaint with federal housing officials, stating he was prohibited from applying for a lease under the Chamorro Land Trust."

US Geological Survey

100-Year Floods Prompt Drone Visit At Historic Site.

The [Torrington \(WY\) Telegram](#) (10/24, Albers) reports that after experiencing 100-year flood events the past two years, Fort Laramie National Historic Site superintendent Tom Baker reached out for help. Don Weeks, physical resources program manager for the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, recalled Baker asking, "Is this the new normal? I think what I need is some sort of river management plan." To assist in the flood management planning, the team turned to Mark Bauer and Todd Burton of the US Geological Survey's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office. Project

planning started in February, “and last week, Bauer and Burton brought an \$80,000 drone to the park – complete with an estimated \$70,000 LiDAR payload.” According to the Telegram, Bauer and Burton “completed a total of 11 flights, most of which were at 150 feet above ground level, with a few flights at 400 feet above ground level.” Bauer estimated “USGS will take a few weeks to process and deliver its findings back to the National Park Service, which will then perform additional data analysis and begin making flood plain management decisions.”

Pasadena Earthquake Expert Kenneth Hudnut to Receive National Award for Service, Leadership in Geodesy.

[Pasadena \(CA\) Now](#) (10/24) reports USGS geophysicist Kenneth Hudnut was chosen to receive the 2017 Ivan I. Mueller Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership at the 2017 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting this December in New Orleans. The award acknowledges “major achievements in service to and/or leadership within the field of geodesy.” According to the article, Hudnut “applies new technologies such as GPS and lidar (light detection and ranging) to earthquake research as a geophysicist for the USGS in Pasadena.”

How Will ‘Really Big One’ Earthquake Shake Out? Researchers Run 50 Simulations.

The [Oregonian](#) (10/24) reports a University of Washington research project ran 50 simulations on how a massive earthquake could disrupt the Northwest. The simulations used combinations “of three factors: The quake’s epicenter, how far inland it would rupture and which parts of the fault would produce the most intense shaking, according to the university.” Erin Wirth, a postdoctoral researcher who led the project, explained in a statement, “There had been just a handful of detailed simulations of a magnitude-9 Cascadia earthquake, and it was hard to know if they were showing the full range. With just a few simulations you didn’t know if you were seeing a best-case, a worst-case or an average scenario. This project has really allowed us to be more confident in saying that we’re seeing the full range of possibilities.”

Top National News

Largest US Grid Operator Rips Perry Plan To Subsidize Coal, Nuclear Power.

The [AP](#) (10/24, Levy) reports that PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest electric grid operator, "said a Trump administration plan to change the way electricity is priced to reward coal and nuclear power is both unworkable and potentially against the law." PJM operates the grid "covering 65 million people from Illinois to Washington, D.C." It "submitted formal comments on the plan late Monday to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission." PJM's president and CEO, Andy Ott said in a conference call with reporters, Energy Secretary Rick Perry's plan is not "workable." In fact, Ott added, "we do believe it's contrary to law and, again, will not really solve any problems." PJM "said the plan would undermine the reliability of markets, intrude on state policies and represent a radical departure from the commission's policies."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Traywick) reports PJM Interconnection CEO Andrew Ott, said, "I don't know how this proposal could be implemented without a detrimental impact on the market," adding that Perry's proposal is "discriminatory" and inconsistent with federal law. Ott's remarks "echo concerns raised by other grid operators, which on Monday asked the commission to reject Perry's proposal. The New York Independent System Operator, ISO New England and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator filed comments jointly with a coalition of organizations that wouldn't be affected," including the "Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the California Independent System Operator, and the Southwest Power Pool." In their comments the group said, "The proposal threatens to undermine price formation and competition in the nation's organized electricity markets."

[EnergyWire](#) (10/24, Kuckro) reports that Ott "said PJM...has been discussing for a year 'the need to properly value' reliability in the context of energy price formation." Ott said, "A better and least-cost solution would be to do proper valuation of resource attributes through a market construct rather than the proposed approach to do a regulatory construct." Ott said that providing compensation to a "subset of generators" is "discriminatory in the sense that it tries to differentiate between resources providing very similar or the same services to the grid." Ott added, "We think it is discriminatory and inconsistent with the Federal Power Act."

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/24, Funk) reports that the trade groups “counter that there is just no evidence that allowing the old plants to shut down and retire would in any way weaken the reliability of the high-voltage grid, echoing an earlier PJM analysis that the grid it manages in Ohio and 12 other states would be fine if 86 percent of the power came from gas turbines.” [Crain’s Cleveland Business](#) (10/24) reports that even though the “rule appears to target PJM specifically,” Ott said, “the PJM market is more diverse and reliable today than we’ve seen.”

Tesla Urges FERC To Drop Coal, Nuclear Subsidy Plan. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Doan) reports that Elon Musk’s Tesla Inc. “waded into an intensifying debate” this week over whether US coal and nuclear plants “should be paid for their ability to supply around-the-clock power.” Last month, Energy Secretary Rick Perry outlined a plan to “create special payments for plants capable of stockpiling 90 days’ worth of fuel at their sites.” In a filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Monday, “Tesla urged the agency to dismiss Perry’s proposal, saying it ‘completely excludes the benefits of energy storage and distributed energy resources.’” Tesla instead urged the agency to “reprioritize” its efforts to “allow for more energy storage to compete in wholesale power markets” and “criticized Perry’s plan for ‘pre-determining’ the kinds of resources that should receive payments.”

Even Some Coal Generators Lukewarm To Perry Plan. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Traywick) reports that while some coal generators including Dynegy Inc., are “poised to profit from Energy Secretary Rick Perry’s plan to change power market rules” – that “doesn’t mean they’ve thrown their full support behind it.” Dynegy, “with about 9.5 gigawatts of coal-fired capacity, went as far as to file comments opposing it.” Dynegy said, “Even from the perspective of a coal generator, the proposed rule should not be adopted because it would substantially, and potentially irreversibly, harm the nation’s competitive electricity markets.” NRG Energy, with “nearly 9 gigawatts of coal capacity” and Entergy Corp., with 2.2 gigawatts of coal capacity “also urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to proceed with caution.”

Senate Dems Question Why Unconfirmed EPA Nominee Dourson Is Already Working.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/24, Siegel) reports

that Democratic senators want to know why Michael Dourson, President Trump's unconfirmed nominee to lead the EPA's toxic chemicals office, is already working at the agency as a top advisor to Administrator Scott Pruitt. In a letter, the senators wrote, "Your appointment creates the appearance, and perhaps the effect, of circumventing the Senate's constitutional advice and consent responsibility for the position to which you have been nominated."

Trump Order Allows Refugee Admittance, Imposes Stricter Vetting.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Sink) reports President Trump "has ended his ban on admitting refugees to the US but will enact stricter vetting procedures for them, administration officials said." The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Dinan) says the "new restrictions" will be imposed on "refugees from 11 mostly-Muslim target countries," who officials said "still pose too much of a danger to be admitted without a compelling national interest." Trump "issued a new executive order re-starting general worldwide refugee processing, updating the policy after a 120-day pause he ordered earlier this year as part of his "extreme vetting" policy."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/24, Miroff) reports "Administration officials said the State Department took the lead in developing the new vetting procedures, along with the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence." These "new rules do not adjust the number of refugees the United States will accept in the next 12 months, which Trump has limited to 45,000, the lowest level since the Refugee Act was created in 1980." [USA Today](#) (10/24, Korte) reports "acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke said the new screening measures 'provide an opportunity for the United States to welcome those in need into our country, while ensuring a safer, more secure homeland.'" [Reuters](#) (10/24, Torbati, Rosenberg) indicates that according to a memo seen by Reuters, sent by the Administration to Congress on Tuesday "ahead of the government announcement on new refugee vetting measures, the administration also will place on hold a program that allows for family reunification for some refugees resettled in the United States."

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Baker, Liptak) reports "refugee advocates said the new order is objectionable, noting that refugee applicants were

already carefully screened and that no American has been killed in a terrorist attack by a refugee in the current era of concern over foreign-sponsored terrorism dating to the Sept. 11 attacks." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24, Meckler, Harris), which broke the story about the new rules, quotes Eric Schwartz, President of Refugees International, who ran the refugee program at the State Department during the Obama Administration, as saying, "My fear and my expectation is that this will not be heightened scrutiny but rather an outright ban against refugees that have represented a majority of those coming into the United States in recent years."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) defends the concept of increasing scrutiny of would-be refugees, but worries that the new policy seems to have a different aim: to reduce their number. To the Journal, that may reflect the government's lack of confidence in its inability to properly identify potential terrorists from the pool of asylum applicants.

Supreme Court Dismisses Last Remaining Travel Ban Appeal. The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Liptak) reports that the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed "the last remaining appeal in a pair of cases challenging President Trump's executive order, issued in March, that sought to limit travel to the United States." The March order was replaced in September with broader restrictions that have "already been blocked by federal district courts in Hawaii and Maryland," so Tuesday's dismissal "mostly amounted to judicial housekeeping, clearing out challenges to the March order as the justices await eventual appeals from the one issued in September." In its brief, unsigned disposition, the court said the March order had expired, "making the case moot."

[Reuters](#) (10/24, Hurley) notes "the justices had been scheduled to hear arguments in the two consolidated on Oct. 10." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/24, Lovelace), [The Hill](#) (10/24, Wheeler) and [Daily Caller](#) (10/24, Daley), among other news outlets, also report the story.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Dinan, Noble) reports, meanwhile, that "the Trump administration on Tuesday filed a notice that [it] intends to appeal the Hawaii judge's ruling to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals." Hawaii Attorney General Doug Chin, "who filed the case, said 'we stand ready to defend it.'"

Costs Of Security For EPA Administrator On The Rise.

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Shelbourne) reports that according to a report by CNN the Environmental Protection Agency's "security expenses" are rising to "an unprecedented level." The agency "is adding security personnel for its administrator, Scott Pruitt, the report said, citing more threats against him than individuals who held the Cabinet position in prior administrations." The Hill adds, "Salaries for Pruitt's security personnel will total \$2 million alone, the network calculated." EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said, "We decline to comment on security measures taken months ago to protect the administrator."

Ross: Congress Will Work Out Details Of Tax Reform Plan.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Persons) reports Commerce Secretary Ross "said Tuesday that details of President Trump's tax plan need to be 'ironed out.'" Ross told [Bloomberg Daybreak](#), "What the president put forward is a framework. It's a conceptual framework. It's his objectives. ... But there are lots and lots of details to be ironed out, and that, very appropriately, is the work of Congress."

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Fewer Than Third Support Trump Tax Plan.

[Reuters](#) (10/24, Becker, Kahn) reports "fewer than a third of Americans support Donald Trump's tax-cut plan, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday." Moreover, "the poll found that more than two-thirds of registered voters said reducing the US federal budget deficit is more important than cutting taxes for the wealthy or for corporations." Reuters adds that "Trump's plan would balloon the deficit and add to the \$20 trillion national debt, according to critics and independent analysts."

NYTimes Analysis: Climate Change Causing Fluctuations In Europe's Olive Oil Production.

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Sengupta) reports, "The heat wave that swept across southern Europe this summer, which scientists say bore the fingerprints of human-induced climate change," has transformed the olive oil industry "into an increasingly risky business – at least in the Mediterranean, the land of its birth." Rabobank analyst Vito Martielli credited the bad harvests in three of the last five years to what

he “called weather-related ‘shocks.’” While vacillations in the olive oil supply may not impact global hunger, the Times says, “the impact of climate change on such a hardy and high-end product is a measure of how global warming is beginning to challenge how we grow food.”

Industry Representatives Lobby Senators To Preserve NAFTA.

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Swanson, Kitroeff) reports that more than “130 representatives” from the automotive, retail, and other industries “stormed Capitol Hill on Tuesday in an extraordinary show of force against a Republican president they fear will cripple or kill the North American Free Trade Agreement.” The industry representatives “met with senators on Tuesday to ratchet up pressure on lawmakers — many of whose constituents work for companies dependent on Nafta — to keep the deal intact.” Tuesday’s effort, which was organized by the US Chamber of Commerce, comes as Administration proposals to rewrite the agreement “have triggered alarm bells among automakers, retailers, agricultural companies and other businesses, who say the provisions the United States is pushing are ‘poison pills’ that would hurt American companies and jobs.”

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24), Jim Bair, president of the US Apple Association, argues that while President Trump has called NAFTA the “worst trade deal ever made,” the US apple industry has thrived under the agreement. Terminating it, he writes, could result in a large tariff on exported apples and reduced earnings for apple growers and their employees.

Bureau Of Labor Statistics: Manufacturing Job Market Will Further Decline In Next Decade.

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Casselman) reports that according to a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “a decade from now, the American economy could look much the way it does today — only more so,” increasingly “dominated by the service sector amid the continued erosion of manufacturing jobs.” It will also be “more polarized in both earnings and geography,” and “more tilted toward jobs that require at least a bachelor’s degree.” The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/24, Meyer) notes the study also found “employment is projected to grow by 11.5 million from..156,100,000 to 167,600,000, an increase of 0.7 percent. This is

greater than the 0.5 percent growth seen in the previous decade from 2006 through 2016, which included the recession that began in December 2007."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Public Art Takes Flight." A [New York Times](#) (10/24) editorial.

Washington Post.

"Jeff Flake's Diagnosis Is Right But It's Not Enough." The [Washington Post](#) (10/24) says in an editorial that conservatives may be "chastened by [Sen. Jeff Flake's] example." Republicans "who fancy themselves true conservatives...should stand up against Mr. Trump's noxious politics" But they must also "fashion an agenda and a political style that can compete successfully in primaries against Trumpism. Until they do, all the eloquence in the world will not be enough."

"Interpol Should Not Be Abused As Putin's Tool Of Revenge." A [Washington Post](#) (10/24) editorial says Interpol "has been attempting to halt abuse of the red-notice system," but argues that the reform effort "needs to run deeper and guard against politicization of the Interpol diffusion notices, too. The United States should also be on guard against diffusion notices intended to silence dissent. It is wrong to allow Mr. Putin's vengeful rants to be translated into action. Magnitsky's legacy is that violations of human rights will not be tolerated, and those who speak out will not be silenced."

"The Government Needs To Get Its Act Together In Puerto Rico." The [Washington Post](#) (10/24) editorializes that in contrast to the situation in Texas and Florida, "more than a month after Maria made landfall on" Puerto Rico "roughly 8 out of 10 residents are still without power." While "the sorry, preexisting state of Puerto Rico's power system...clearly accounts for some of the delay...that doesn't excuse the bad planning and questionable decisions that have marked the response to a calamity that was so clearly anticipated." To the Post, "giving a no-bid \$300 million contract to a company that had just two full-time employees on the day Maria struck is, at best, curious and deserving of more scrutiny."

Wall Street Journal.

"A Bipartisan Drug Cartel?" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) editorial takes issue with a Washington Post and "60 Minutes" investigation which implied that the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, which was sponsored by Rep. Tom Marino, who recently withdrew from consideration to be director of ONDCP, ended the DEA's authority to go after illegal shipments of prescription drugs, noting that the main source for the story was former DEA official Joe Rannazzisi who is now a consultant for lawyers suing the opioid industry.

"Terrorists And Travel." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) defends the concept of increasing scrutiny of would-be refugees, but worries that the new policy seems to have a different aim: To reduce their number. To the Journal, that may reflect the government's lack of confidence in its inability to properly identify potential terrorists from the pool of asylum applicants.

"Illinois's Latest Criminals." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) criticizes Illinois State Senate Democrats and seven Republicans for voting to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of the "Collective Bargaining Freedom Act," which bans right-to-work zones in the state and threatens officials who enact them with a class-A misdemeanor.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Rift Widens Within GOP In Battle For Control Of Party](#)

[Wealthier Depositors Pressure Banks To Pay Up](#)
[China Boosts Powers Of Xi Jinping As Equal To Mao](#)
[Buildings Across US Are Wrapped In Same Panels That Fueled Deadly London Fire](#)

New York Times:

[Jeff Flake, A Fierce Trump Critic, Will Not Seek Re-Election For Senate](#)
[Another Republican Call To Arms, But Who Will Answer?](#)
[Consumer Bureau Loses Fight To Allow More Class-Action Suits](#)
[Across Myanmar, Denial Of Ethnic Cleansing And](#)

[Loathing Of Rohingya](#)
[China Enshrines 'Xi Jinping Thought.' What Does That Mean?](#)
[US Must Let Undocumented Teenager Get An Abortion, Appeals Court Says](#)
[Some Schools Reopen In Puerto Rico, Making Do Without Power](#)

Washington Post:

[Amid Politics Of Extremes, Northam Sticks To Solid Résumé And Mild Image](#)
[China Puts Xi On Par With Mao In Party Pantheon](#)
[Clinton Campaign, DNC Funded Russia Info](#)
[Republicans' Dilemma: Speak Out Or Hope Silence Pays Off](#)
[2 GOP Senators Issue Blunt Warnings On Trump](#)

Financial Times:

[AfD Accuses Bundestag Rivals Of Nazi-Era Tactics](#)
[Strong US Earnings Lift Confidence In Global Outlook](#)

[Surge In Morocco Migrants Raises Alarm In Spain](#)
[Xi Jinping Confirmed As China's Most Powerful Leader Since Mao](#)

Washington Times:

[Congress Launches 2 Investigations Into Obama Administration Dealings](#)
[Trump's Republican Unity Luncheon Backfires As Sen. Jeff Flake Quits, Unleashes Wrath](#)
[Conservative Groups Get Behind Bannon Revolt Against Republican Establishment](#)
[Court Dismisses Government Objections, Says Illegal Immigrant Has Right To Immediate Abortion](#)
[Trump Signs New Order Restricting Refugees From 11 'High Risk' Countries](#)
[Thousands Of Islamic State Fighters Return To Home Countries; Russia No. 1 Source](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: GOP Senators-Trump; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; SF Airport Close Call Investigation; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Hillary Clinton Email Investigation; Michigan-Highway Prank Murder; Cleveland Police Standoff; Pittsburgh Bank Robbery; Lottery Policy Change; Young Basketball Player.

CBS: GOP Senators-Trump; Niger US Casualty Investigation; SF Airport Close Call Investigation; Severe Weather; Sandy Hook Shooting Investigation

Report; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Exercise-Health Benefits; Hollywood Director Sexual Harassment; Hawaii-Walking And Texting Fine; Robert Guillaume Dies; NFL Player Training.

NBC: GOP Senators-Trump; GOP Senators-Expert Comment; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Cuba-US Embassy Sonic Attack Investigation; Michigan-Highway Prank Murder; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Heath-Cancer Gene Therapy; Robert Guillaume Dies; Sears-Discontinuing Whirlpool; Lottery Policy Change; Baseball World Series.

Network TV At A Glance:

GOP Senators-Trump – 12 minutes, 35 seconds
Niger US Casualty Investigation – 6 minutes, 50 seconds

Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery – 4 minutes
SF Airport Close Call Investigation – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Consumer Protection Law Repeal; Hurricane Relief Bill; GOP Senators-Trump; Manafort-Money Laundering; Baseball World Series; Wall Street News.

CBS: GOP Senators-Trump; Tax Reform Bill; Baseball World Series; Consumer Protection Law Repeal; Russian Dossier Investigation.

FOX: 2010 Nuclear Deal Investigation; Michigan-Highway Prank Murder; Vaccination Study.

NPR: GOP Senators-Trump; White House-Refugee Resettlement Plan; Baseball World Series; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a briefing on hurricane recovery efforts in Dallas, TX; participates in a roundtable with Republican National Committee (RNC) supporters; gives remarks at a Dallas Trump victory reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a Gillespie for Governor event; delivers keynote remarks at In Defense of Christians' annual Solidarity Dinner for Christians in the Middle East.

US Senate: 9:15 AM Senate Armed Services

Subcommittee on Seapower CLOSED hearing – Subcommittee hearing on Major Threats Facing Naval Forces and the Navy's Current and Planned Capabilities to Meet Those Threats. Witnesses: Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Jason A. Reynolds, Director, Special Programs Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

<https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/17-10-25-major-threats-facing-naval-forces-and-the-navys-current-and-planned-capabilities-to-meet-those-threats>

Location: Room SVC-217, The Office of Senate Security in the Capitol Visitor Center

9:30 AM Arctic Refuge Day of Action and rally – Gwich'in leaders and conservationists call on Congress to 'keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge out of the budget process', at rally with Democratic Reps. Jared Huffman and Raul Grijalva, Alaska Wilderness League Executive Director Adam Kolton, and Gwich'in Steering Committee Executive Director Bernadette Demientieff Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.alaskawild.org
<https://twitter.com/alaskawild>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate Intelligence Committee holds hearing with President Trump's personal attorney invited to testify – POSTPONED: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence holds hearing with Michael Cohen – personal attorney to President Donald Trump – having been invited to appear * Cohen was originally scheduled to speak with the committee in a closed interview, but defied committee requests to refrain from public comment and released a public statement, leading the committee to postpone the interview and reschedule his appearance in an open session Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting, legislative hearing – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Michael Dourson, William Wehrum, Matthew Leopold, and David Ross to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; Paul Trombino III to be Federal Highway Administration Administrator; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member (reappointment) * Immediately followed by legislative hearing on 'S. XXXXXX, the Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington,

DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Economic Outlook with CEA Chairman Kevin Hassett' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee top secret briefing on Nigeria – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee closed / top secret briefing on 'Nigeria Security Update', given by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; and State Department Regional and Arms Transfers Office Director Mike Miller Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee hearing on the commercial satellite industry – Hearing on 'The Commercial Satellite Industry: What's Up and What's on the Horizon', with testimony from SpaceX Vice President of Satellite Government Affairs Patricia Cooper; ViaSat CEO Mark Dankberg; Intelsat CEO Stephen Spengler; and OneWeb founder and Executive Chairman Greg Wyler Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://commerce.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:30 AM Senate Veteran's Affairs committee business meeting – Business Meeting: Meeting to Consider Pending Nominations: Melissa Sue Glynn, Nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration; Randy Reeves, Nominee to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Cheryl L. Mason, Nominee to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.
<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-meeting-to-consider-pending-nomination-10252017> Location: S-216 U.S. Capitol

10:30 AM House and Senate Dems Call for Passage of the Bipartisan Dream Act – Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chair of the House Democratic Caucus Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY), Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) join university presidents and chancellors to call for urgent passage of the bipartisan Dream Act. Speakers will highlight the contributions of Dreamers to campuses throughout the country and the positive impact Dreamers have on higher education.

Additional speakers: Nejvi Bejko, Dreamer; Leezia Dhalla, Dreamer; Michael J. Sheeran, S.J., President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); Gary May, Chancellor for the University of California, Davis; Kristina Johnson, State University of New York Chancellor; Satish Tripathi, President of the University at Buffalo; Havidan Rodriguez, President of the University at Albany. Location: SVC 208 durbin.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin>

10:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee votes on nominees for OPM and GSA heads – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Jeff Pon to be Office of Personnel Management Director, and Michael Rigas to be Deputy Director; and Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

11:00 AM Congressional Gold Medal presented to Filipino WWII vets – House of Representatives and Senate leadership present a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Filipino veterans of World War II, for their service and sacrifice during the war. Event participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, vets and their next of kin, and other Members of Congress * Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. A single medal has been struck to honor all the vets Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC <http://speaker.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

12:00 PM Childhood cancer research foundation hosts Congressional briefing – St. Baldrick's Foundation luncheon briefing on Capitol Hill, with panels discussing advances in immunotherapy and pediatric oncology research and the challenges and opportunities in drug development and treatment. Bipartisan Sens. Marco Rubio and Michael Bennet act as honorary Congressional hosts * Time approximate * Foundation is the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-212-210, Washington, DC <http://www.stbaldricks.org/>
<https://twitter.com/stbaldricks>

2:30 PM Business Meeting, to consider 'S.

1223, Klamath Tribe Judgement Fund Repeal Act'
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628,
Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Aging Committee hearing on
working and aging with disabilities – Hearing on
'Working and Aging with Disabilities: From School to
Retirement', with testimony from Indiana University
Professor Emeritus Dr David Michael Mank;
University of Illinois-Chicago Professor Dr Tamar
Heller; Jeff Smith; and Spurwink President and CEO
Eric Meyer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee
legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 1870,
the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim
Empowerment Act 2017', 'S. 1953, the
Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of
2010', and 'S. 1942, a bill to direct the AG to review,
revise and develop law enforcement and justice
protocols appropriate to address missing and
murdered Indians', with testimony from U.S.
Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma R.
Trent Shores; Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Bryan
Rice; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse
Reservation Chairman Dave Flute; Confederated
Tribes of the Colville Reservation Business
Councilman Joel Boyd; and Native Women's Society
of the Great Plains Director Carmen O'Leary
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628,
Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

US House: 10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee
markup hearing continues – Markup hearing
continues on 'H.R. X, Agricultural Guestworker Act'
and 'H.R. 3711, Legal Workforce Act' * Began
yesterday Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office
Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Financial Services
subcommittee hearing on housing finance reform –
Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on
'Sustainable Housing Finance: Private Sector
Perspectives on Housing Finance Reform', with
testimony from BlackRock Managing Director Kevin
Chavers (on behalf of Securities Industry and
Financial Markets Association); First Federal Savings
Senior Vice President Brenda Hughes (on behalf of
American Bankers Association); First State Bank
President and CEO Samuel Vallandingham (on behalf

of Independent Community Bankers of America); Center for Responsible Lending Executive Vice President Nikitra Bailey; and Tower Federal Credit Union President and CEO Rick Stafford (on behalf of National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

<http://financialservices.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittees joint hearing on combating the opioid crisis – Health Subcommittee and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Federal Efforts to Combat the Opioid Crisis: A Status Update on CARA and Other Initiatives’, with testimony from Drug Enforcement Administration Deputy Assistant Administrator for Diversion Control Neil Doherty; Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr Elinore McCance-Katz; CDC Principal Deputy Director Dr Anne Schuchat; and NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr Nora Volkow Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Down syndrome – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Down Syndrome: Update on the State of the Science and Potential for Discoveries Across Other Major Diseases’, with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Cheri Bustos, and Pete Sessions; Global Down Syndrome Foundation founder, CEO, and President Michelle Sie Whitten; University of California-San Diego Down Syndrome Center for Research and Treatment Executive Director Dr William Mobley; University of Colorado School of Medicine Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome Executive Director Dr Joaquin Espinosa; and Global Down Syndrome Foundation’s Frank Stephens Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-C, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on greater sage grouse recovery – Oversight hearing on ‘Empowering State Based Management Solutions for Greater Sage Grouse

Recovery', with testimony from Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke; Utah Division of Natural Resources Deputy Director Darin Bird; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Director John Tubbs; and Board of Eureka County Commissioners (NV) Chairman J.J. Goicoechea Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittee holds hearing on Russian software allegedly used for hacking – Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'Bolstering the Government's Cybersecurity: Assessing the Risk of Kaspersky Lab Products to the Federal Government', with testimony from National Institute of Standards and Technology Chief Cybersecurity Advisor Donna Dodson; General Services Administration CIO David Shive; Play-Action Strategies President James Norton; and International Institute for Strategic Studies Director of Future Conflict and Cyber Security Sean Kanuck * Follows reports alleging that Russian hackers could use Kaspersky Lab's software to conduct espionage Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Economic Outlook with CEA Chairman Kevin Hassett' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the president's Iran decision – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'The President's Iran Decision: Next Steps', with testimony from Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Advisor on Science and Nonproliferation (and former International Atomic Energy Agency Deputy Director General) Dr Olli Heinonen; United Against Nuclear Iran CEO (and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Management and Reform) Mark Wallace; and Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy (and former White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region) Dr Philip Gordon * Earlier this month, President Donald Trump announced his strategy on Iran, including withdrawing certification of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Tehran's nuclear program, which he has previously described as 'one of the

worst deals I've ever seen' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

<http://www.hcfa.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:30 AM House and Senate Dems Call for Passage of the Bipartisan Dream Act – Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chair of the House Democratic Caucus Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY), Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) join university presidents and chancellors to call for urgent passage of the bipartisan Dream Act.

Speakers will highlight the contributions of Dreamers to campuses throughout the country and the positive impact Dreamers have on higher education.

Additional speakers: Nejvi Bejko, Dreamer; Leezia Dhalla, Dreamer; Michael J. Sheeran, S.J., President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); Gary May, Chancellor for the University of California, Davis; Kristina Johnson, State University of New York Chancellor; Satish Tripathi, President of the University at Buffalo; Havidan Rodriguez, President of the University at Albany. Location: SVC 208 durbin.senate.gov

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs

subcommittee hearing on VBA overpayments – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining How VBA Can Effectively Prevent and Manage Overpayments', with testimony from Veterans Benefits Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations Willie Clark, and Compensation Service Director Beth Murphy; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Management Debt Management Center Acting Director Roberta Lowe; The American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Deputy Director David Spivey; Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Legislative Director Shane Liermann; and Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service Deputy Director John Towles + written submission from National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC

<http://veterans.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM Congressional Gold Medal presented to Filipino WWII vets – House of Representatives and Senate leadership present a Congressional Gold

Medal in honor of Filipino veterans of World War II, for their service and sacrifice during the war. Event participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, vets and their next of kin, and other Members of Congress * Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. A single medal has been struck to honor all the vets Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC <http://speaker.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

11:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on GAO report – Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee hearing on ‘GAO Audit Reveals Half-Measures Taken by Small Business Advocates’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment William Shear; Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development Robb Wong; and Department of Homeland Security Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Director Kevin Boshears Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on state voter registration list management – Hearing on ‘State Voter Registration List Management’, with testimony from Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson; and American Civil Liberties Union Voting Rights Project Director Dale Ho Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 469 – Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2017’, as amended, plus consideration of legislation (possibly including ‘H.R. 1698 – Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act’, as amended, ‘H.Res. 359 – Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members’, as

amended, 'H.R. 3342 – Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act', as amended, and 'H.R. 3329 – Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017', as amended) under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on FCC oversight – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)', with testimony from FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, and Commissioners Brendan Carr, Mignon Clyburn, Michael O'Rielly, and Jessica Rosenworcel Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

2:00 PM Dem Reps. Alma Adams and Nydia Velazquez host 'Necessity as a Driver of Women's Entrepreneurship' roundtable – Democratic Reps. Alma Adams and Nydia Velazquez host 'Small Business Roundtable: Necessity as a Driver of Women's Entrepreneurship' – during National Women in Small Business Month – focusing on 'how the unique factors that drive women to become small business owners (including child care, career opportunity, and gender discrimination in the workplace) have an outsized influence over minority women and their need to start their own small businesses to continue providing for their families'. Witnesses are WANDA – Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture founder and CEO Tandra Raye Stevenson, Esteem Logic President/CEO Kristina Francis, Create& co-founder and Chief Design Strategist Maia Sciupac, National Women Business Council Executive Director Esther Morales, and National Women Business Council Director of Policy and Research Anna Rorem Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://adams.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepAdams>

2:00 PM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process – Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Miscellaneous Tariff Bill: Providing Tariff Relief to U.S. Manufacturers Through the New MTB Process' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM Economic Opportunity Subcommittee markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office

Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC

<http://veterans.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources

subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda III; Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathon Nez; Santa Clara Pueblo Governor J. Michael Chavarria; Tribal Economic Growth Alliance representative Henry Cagey; Indian Land Tenure Foundation President Cris Stainbrook; and Compass Lexecon Executive Vice President Eric Henson Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on the IRS – Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Ongoing Management Challenges at IRS’, with testimony from Department of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George, and Deputy Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations Gregory Kutz; and Internal Revenue Service Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support Jeffrey Tribiano, and CIO Gina Garza Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services Committee hearing on the Equifax data breach continues, following call from Dem members – Hearing continues on ‘Examining the Equifax Data Breach’, with testimony from Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General Sara Cable; National Consumer Law Center Staff Attorney Chi Chi Wu; TransUnion President and CEO James Peck; Equifax Interim CEO Paulino do Rego Barros Jr.; Experian CEO Brian Cassin; Georgetown University Law Center Center on Privacy and Technology Deputy Director Laura Moy; and U.S. PIRG Consumer Advocate Mike Litt * The additional day to the hearing was demanded by the Committee’s Democratic members under the committee’s rules, and they have selected the witnesses Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

7:00 PM House Dems speak on chamber floor on General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina 150th annual session – Democratic Reps. G. K. Butterfield, David Price, and Alma Adams deliver remarks on the House of Representatives floor recognizing the upcoming (30 Oct – 1 Nov) 150th annual session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina * Time approximate Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

[Butterfield.house.gov](https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte)

<https://twitter.com/GKButterfield>

Other: 8:30 AM Inter-American Dialogue hosts Latin America Energy Conference – Inter-American Dialogue hosts Latin America Energy Conference, discussing ‘the most critical energy policy issues in the region’, with keynotes from White House Special Assistant to the President for International Energy and Environment David Banks and Mexican Deputy Secretary of Energy Cesar Emiliano Hernandez Ochoa, Inter-American Dialogue President Michael Shifter, Republican Rep. Jeff Duncan, Verisk Maplecroft Head of Oil & Gas Risk RoseAnne Franco, Holland & Knight Partner Jose Vicente Zapata Lugo, Eurasia Group Latin America Director Risa Grais-Targow, Inter-American Development Bank Energy Division Chief Ariel Yepez, State Department Bureau of Energy Resources Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Sue Saarnio, and Berkeley Research Group Managing Director Adam Borison Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1155 15th St NW, Washington, DC www.thedialogue.org

https://twitter.com/The_Dialogue #DialogueEnergy

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Bob Corker speaks on ‘Ending Modern Slavery’ at CSIS – ‘Ending Modern Slavery’ Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, with Republican Sen. Bob Corker and Principality of Liechtenstein Financial Intelligence Unit Director Daniel Thelesklaf Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org>
<https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:00 AM Bipartisan Sens. Chris Murphy and Bill Cassidy speak at Health 202 Live launch – The Washington Post launches The Health 202 Live series, which will ‘bring a sharp analysis of The Health 202 newsletter to stage featuring in-depth, live interviews with policymakers and industry leaders in Washington, DC and outside the Beltway’. Event speakers discuss ‘the current status of health

care reform efforts, the future of Medicare and Medicaid and the state of the insurance marketplace'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, America's Health Insurance Plans President and Chief Executive Marilyn Tavenner, Covered California Executive Director Peter Lee, Florida Covering Kids and Families Project Director Jodi Ray, National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable Executive Director Ryan Clary, and Harvard Law School professor and Law School's Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation Faculty Director Robert Greenwald Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9: 15 AM Dem Sen. Ben Cardin speaks on senior leadership and diversity at CSIS – 'Transformational Leadership in International Affairs' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion on senior leadership and diversity. The conference examines 'strategic imperatives for diversifying the senior ranks of U.S. national security agencies and look at new talent management approaches in leading U.S. global companies'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, Diversity and Leadership in International Affairs Project Executive Director Deborah McCarthy, former State Department Director General Ruth Davis, and CSIS President and CEO Dr John Hamre Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9: 30 AM Labor Secretary Acosta attends Kemp Forum on 'Opportunity in the New Digital Economy' – Jack Kemp Foundation, in partnership with the Internet Association, hosts 'Opportunity in the New Digital Economy' Kemp Forum, with Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, Republicans Sens. Ben Sasse and Tim Scott, and Rep. Will Hurd, President's Assistant for Strategic Initiatives Chris Liddell, Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Terrell McSweeney, Walmart Senior Vice President of Global Public Affairs and Government Relations Dan Bryant, former FCC transition team lead Mark Jamison, Progressive Policy Institute's Michael Mandel, Economists Incorporated's Hal Singer, Entropy Economics' Bret Swanson, Jack Kemp Foundation's Jimmy Kemp, and Internet Association President and CEO Michael Beckerman Location: 101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC

www.jackkempfoundation.org

<https://twitter.com/kempfoundation>

12:30 PM 'Stop the Rollback of Our Clean Car Standards' campaign launched – 'Forward, Not Backward: Stop the Rollback of Our Clean Car Standards' campaign launched, to 'protect vehicle fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emission standards' and educate and mobilize the public to call out and halt automakers' rollback efforts. Speakers on press call include Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt, Public Citizen President Robert Weissman, Greenpeace Projects Director Leila Deen, and Safe Climate Campaign Director Dan Becker Location: TBD
www.sierraclub.org <https://twitter.com/sierraclub>

12:30 PM Singaporean PM Lee speaks at Council on Foreign Relations – Council on Foreign Relations hosts Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, discussing U.S.-Singapore bilateral relations as well as strategic challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC
www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org

1:30 PM Annual Attorney General's Awards Ceremony – 65th Annual Attorney General's Awards Ceremony, recognizing Department of Justice employees and others for distinguished public service. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein deliver remarks Location: DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.usdoj.gov>
<https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Annual Congressional Correspondents' Dinner – 73rd Annual Congressional Correspondents' Dinner, including announcement of the winners of the Joan S. Barone Award, David Bloom Award, and Jerry Thompson Award. Event features keynote speaker House Speaker Paul Ryan, and 'The Daily Show with Trevor Noah' correspondent Roy Wood Jr. and guest emcee Bobby Bones Location: National Building Museum, 401 F St NW, Washington, DC
rtcacaphill.org <https://twitter.com/rtcadinner>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump's merchandise team is trying to make Halloween great again. For real."

They have a new hat. ... The hat goes for \$45. It is already sold out. Like the Trump Administration, it is only available for a limited time."

Stephen Colbert: "You might recall that [Sen. Bob] Corker called the White House 'an adult daycare center.' Okay, clever, but not entirely accurate. With Trump, you also need a night shift."

Stephen Colbert: "It came out that [Bill] O'Reilly settled a sixth sexual harassment claim, paying \$32 million to a longtime Fox News analyst for, among other things, allegedly sending her gay pornography. But because it was from Bill O'Reilly, all of those gay porn stars said 'Merry Christmas' before coming down your chimney."

James Corden: "In a series of tweets, Trump called Corker a 'lightweight.' He called him 'incompetent,' and he mocked his height by once again calling him 'Little Bob Corker.' So, looks like the First Lady's anti-bullying initiative still has a ways to go."

James Corden: "At one point, Corker told reporters that Trump's legacy will be, 'the debasement of our nation.' Yeah, debasement. As in, when Trump starts a war, I'll be hiding in the-basement."

Jimmy Fallon: "Republican Senator Jeff Flake announced that he will not seek reelection and said the GOP was headed in the wrong direction. Or as Trump calls it, 'Flake news.'"

Seth Meyers: "A protester posing as a journalist threw Russian flags at President Trump as he arrived at the Capitol today and shouted, 'Trump is treason!' Then she went back to her book tour."

Seth Meyers: "Tomorrow is Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner's eighth wedding anniversary. If you're wondering what to get them, how about out? Get them out."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump and Bob Corker are in a feud after Corker compared the White House to a daycare center. When they heard this, 3-year-olds everywhere said, 'Oh, no, do not lump us in with that guy.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Bill O'Reilly revealed that he is mad

at God for putting him through his sexual harassment scandal. Today, God refused to comment."

Conan O'Brien: "A California elementary school was under fire for putting up a Donald Trump scarecrow. Even worse, 30 percent of the crows still think that Trump scarecrow is doing a great job."

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